## REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are all the claims pending in the application, including new claims 12-17 added by the present Amendment. Claims 1-5 have been withdrawn from consideration. Thus, only claims 6-11 have been examined.

Claims 6, 7, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Zeleny et al. (US 6,215,894). Claims 6-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Noblett (US 6,362,004). Also, claims 6, 7, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Perttunen et al. (US 5,968,728). Applicant responds to the rejections as set forth below.

Zeleny et al. relates to a system for scanning biochip arrays, including a unique image array identifier recorded for each array and a computer stored record corresponding to each identifier and containing the parameters of the experiment in the array identified by the identifier. The system further includes means for accessing a protocol library to retrieve the scanning protocols associated with the identifier arrays and then scanning the arrays in accordance with the respective protocols. The resulting image maps generated by the scanners are stored in locations corresponding to the associated identifiers. Figure 1 of the reference shows a microarray biochip 10, which includes two array regions 12 and 14 and identifiers 16 and 18, which relate to the experiments performed in the regions 12 and 14. As shown in Figure 1, the identifiers 16 and 18 include a numeral and a corresponding bar code.

Noblett relates to a microarray scanning system for conducting experiments on a planar substrate including an apparatus for translating the secured substrate into axes. The substrate has at least one fiducial mark on the planar substrate as a means for positioning and aligning the

substrate for subsequent spot placement analysis, or comparison procedures. The fudicial marks are deposited at a predetermined position relative to the location of a corresponding microarray of test spots or samples. Figure 2 of the reference shows a sample surface of the microarray sample including an array of target spots. The microarray sample 100 includes at least one microarray 121 deposited on the sample surface 103. The microarray 121 comprises a plurality of targets spots 123. A first fiducial mark 125 and an optional second fiducial mark 127 are disposed on the test surface 103. The first fiducial 125 is a spot of approximately the same size as the size of the target spot 123, and may include the same target material forming the targets spots 123. The fiducial marks 125 and 127 are provided as reference points for the relative placement location of each target spot 123 and the microarray 121. See col. 6, lines 24-28.

Perttunen et al. relates to a molecular detection device including a support member and a plurality of molecular receptors arranged at a plurality sites of the support member. As shown in Figure 11, an embodiment of the molecular detection device of Perttunen includes a substrate 120, which supports a molecular detection array 122. As shown in the figure, identification codes 134 and 136 are included on the substrate 120. The identification codes 134 and 136 aid in verifying that the first and second portions 126 and 130 of the substrate 120, when separated, are for the same device. The identification codes 134 and 136 include a series of human-readable printed characters or a machine-readable bar code.

With respect to Noblett, Applicant submits that the fiducial marks 125 and 127 do not correspond to the management information, as asserted by the Examiner (page 5, lines 17-18, of the Office Action). Instead, Noblett teaches that the fiducial marks 125 and 127 "are provided as reference points for the relative placement location of each target spot 123 and the microarray

121." In other words, the fiducial marks are used for positioning the array. Thus, the Examiner's interpretation of the fiducial marks of Noblett appears to be overly broad. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Noblett fails to teach or suggest means for attaching management information peculiar to the test piece to a predetermined location on the test piece, means for detecting the management information attached to the test piece, and means for storing the management information in association with the information concerning the positions of the probes to which the target substance has bound.

Therefore, claims 6-11 are not anticipated by Noblett.

Also, claims 6 and 9 are amended herein to combine the means for obtaining and the means for detecting into a single means, which simultaneously performs the two claimed functions. Applicant submits that the applied references fail to teach or suggest the means for obtaining information concerning the positions of the probes to which the target substance has bound and simultaneously detecting the management information attached to the test piece of claims 6 and 9. Thus, claims 6 and 9 are not anticipated by Zeleny et al., Noblett, and Pertunnen et al. for this additional reason.

Furthermore, claims 7, 8, 10, and 11 are allowable at least because of their dependence from claims 6 and 9, respectively.

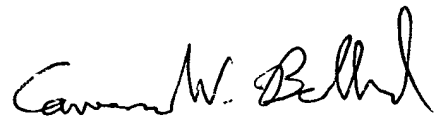
Therefore, claims 6-11 are allowable over the prior art.

New claims 12-17 are added to more fully define the present invention. Claims 12-15 are believed to be allowable, at least because of their respective dependence from claims 6 and 9. Claims 16 and 17 are believed to be allowable for reasons analogous to those for claims 6 and 9.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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